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General Assembly

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29 November 2018

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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 9 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address you with regard to another unfortunate case of the blatant violation by the United Nations host country of its obligations under international law.

Mr. Konstantin Vorontsov, Counsellor of the Department of Non-Proliferation and Arms Control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, was assigned to travel to New York as a member of the Russian delegation to the First Committee of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session (requested date of entry in the United States: 1 October 2018).

Regrettably, the work of the First Committee is nearing its completion, but Mr. Vorontsov has not yet received an entry visa despite multiple reminders from us, including a diplomatic note to the Department of State.

The actions of the United States contradict its obligations under the United Nations Headquarters Agreement, which clearly indicates that entry visas to representatives of Member States must be issued as promptly as possible to enable them to travel, in a timely manner, to New York on official United Nations business, including United Nations meetings (see sect. 13 (a)). No grounds for denial of visas or for such deliberate prolongation of consideration of visa applications exist under the Agreement. Moreover, issues related to the entry into the United States of Member State representatives must be dealt with irrespective of the bilateral relations of the host country (see sect. 12).

The non-issuance of a visa to Mr. Vorontsov is a deliberate attempt by the United States to disrupt the work of a United Nations Member State delegation at one of the most important meetings in the General Assembly.

We would appreciate it if you would promptly engage with the authorities of the United States in order to assure the host country's compliance with its obligations towards the United Nations under the Headquarters Agreement.

(*Signed*) Vassily **Nebenzia**

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3 December 2018

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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 29 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

I am writing to you in relation to an unfortunate situation motivated by the host country of the United Nations.

Cuba holds the status of President Pro Tempore of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). As a demonstration of the importance that our country attaches to this organization, our Government decided to designate the Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment, Ileana Núñez Mordoche, to preside over the regional interactive dialogue of the Latin American and Caribbean countries on the priorities of the region with a view to holding the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, in her capacity as Chair of the ECLAC Committee on South-South Cooperation.

Unfortunately, the disrespectful attitude of the United States Government prevented Deputy Minister Núñez Mordoche from attending the event by unreasonably delaying the granting of her entry visa to the United States, which had been duly processed.

This action by the United States violates its obligations under the United Nations Headquarters Agreement, which clearly indicates that entry visas for representatives of Member States should be issued as soon as possible so that they can travel, in a timely manner, on an official mission to the United Nations, including to attend meetings.

The United States cannot use its status as the host country to selectively implement the Agreement or to achieve its bilateral agenda against certain countries.

Issues related to the entry into the United States of representatives of Member States should be dealt with regardless of the bilateral relations of the host country.

We regret that the United States Government continues to show disrespect for multilateral organizations and their Member States.

We would appreciate it if you could promptly contact the United States authorities to ensure that the host country complies with its obligations to the United Nations under the aforementioned Headquarters Agreement, in order to avoid a recurrence of such events.

(*Signed*) Anayansi **Rodríguez Camejo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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